

Remarks

Claims 2-20 is currently pending and are rejected under 35 USC §102(e). Claims 2, 8, 14 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants assert that claims 2-20 are in a condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks below.

Interview Summary

A phone interview was conducted on February 28 during which it was discussed that the Anderson reference failed to teach the accepting, applying and sending steps as recited in the independent claims. Specifically, it was highlighted that Anderson teaches the ability of a user to query a reports generator and produce ad hoc reports. It was emphasized that using a report generator is not equivalent to a system accepting ad hoc error processing rules and administrative overrides. The examiner concurred but requested that clarification be made that the processing rules are error processing rules and can not be construed to be a report query.

It was further discussed that although Anderson taught sending messages/alerts upon certain events listed in table 1 and 2, Anderson did not teach sending a warning when an undefined error code is encountered since table 1 and 2 contained only defined error events. The examiner was going to research that particular issue based on a written argument to that effect.

Lastly it was discussed that dependent claims 3-5, 9-11, 17 and 20 contained subject matter that was facially not anticipated by the portions Anderson cited against them. For example in claims 3 and 20, Anderson does not disclose an error processing rule including a description of the rule, a rule start date, a rule end date, and a rule maximum duration.

102 Rejections

Claims 2-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson (US Patent 6,058,380). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Independent claims 2, 8 and 14 each recite similar subject matter that is not disclosed by Anderson. As a representative example, independent claim 2 in pertinent part recites,

“[a] method for automating error processing and correction in legacy usage and billing systems comprising...

accepting ad hoc sets of **error** processing rules and administrative overrides;
applying the one or more sets of defined and ad hoc **error** processing rules to the plurality of defective billing records to correct the billing records;

sending a warning when a defective billing record is encountered by the one or more error processing rules that has an undefined error code...”.

The Office Action cites Col. 14, lines 33-37 as anticipating the accepting and applying steps and Column 4, lines 39-41 as anticipating the sending step. However, Anderson fails to teach the above steps of accepting, applying and sending.

In column 14, Anderson teaches that the report generator **64** can generate reports about customers. “Moreover, intermediary report generator **64** can generate on an ad hoc basis reports containing information of vendor interest”. (Col. 14, l. 33-35). “In general, intermediary report generator **64** can retrieve any information contained in intermediary database **66**”. Anderson, particularly the cited section, does not teach accepting ad hoc sets of error processing rules and administrative overrides or applying those one or more sets of defined and ad hoc error processing rules to the plurality of defective billing records to correct the billing records. Merely generating reports on an ad hoc basis is not accepting and using ad hoc error processing rules and administrative overrides.

In regards to claims 2, 8 and 16, Anderson teaches that “if an exception is detected, action is taken in accordance with Table1 and an exception report is generated in accordance with Table 2”. Anderson, particularly the cited section, does not teach sending a warning when a defective billing record is encountered by the one or more error processing rules that involves an undefined error code. Anderson only teaches reporting the defined exceptions listed in Table 1. Anderson does not disclose issuing an exception report or even the possibility of issuing an exception report concerning an undefined error code.

Since Anderson fails to disclose all of the elements of the accepting, applying and sending steps it fails to anticipate amended claims 2, 8, 14 and 16. Therefore, amended claims 2, 8, 14 and 16 are allowable over Anderson for at least those same reasons. Dependent claims 3-7, 9-13, 15 and 17-20 each depend from an allowable independent claim 2, 8 or 14 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Furthermore, in regards to dependent claims 3, 4, 9, 10 and 20, Anderson fails to teach the subject matter asserted against claims 3 and 20. Claims 3, 9 and 20 recite in pertinent part, “[t]he device of claim..., wherein an error processing rule includes a description of the rule, a rule start date, a rule end date, and a rule maximum duration”. Anderson teaches a format rule table **138** that contains an entry for each format rule that has been specified for the generation of a customer specific accounts payable feed. (Col. 16, l. 65-67). Such a disclosure is contrary to the claim recitations and do not teach that the “rule includes a description of the rule, a rule start date, a rule end date, and a rule maximum duration”, as asserted. For this additional reason dependent claims 3, 9 and 20 are allowable over Anderson. Claim 4 depends from allowable claim 3 and is allowable as well.

Further still, in regards to dependent claims 5, 11 and 17, Anderson fails to teach the subject matter asserted against claims 5, 11 and 17. Claims 5, 11 and 17 recite in pertinent part, “[t]he device of

claim..., wherein the processor sends a warning when a predetermined threshold is met limiting the total number of records received into the master database from the one or more billing systems”.

The cited portion of Anderson teaches that “the records for each invoice [are] maintained in intermediary database 66 for a set period e.g. two years”. (Col. 12, l. 20-23). Such a citation does not teach that the processor sends a warning when a predetermined threshold is met limiting the total number of records received into the master database from the one or more billing systems, as asserted. For this additional reason, dependent claims 5, 11 and 17 are allowable over Anderson.

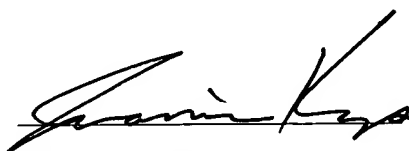
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 2-20 is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination in view of the amendment and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 20, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeramie J. Keys", written over a horizontal line.

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